

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This preliminary amendment is in support to the concurrently filed Rule 1.53(b) Continuation Application of pending U.S. Application Serial Number 09/410,133, which was filed on September 30, 1999. Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21, and 30 have been amended

Applicants are respectfully requesting the above amendments prior to the examination of the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 557-3800. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

***Conclusion***

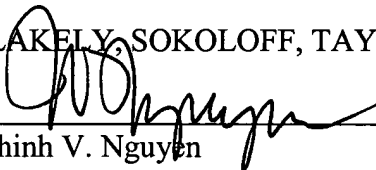
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: February 12, 2004

By

  
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